## Office of Current Production and Analytic Support CIA Operations Center

**News Bulletin** 

The Washington Times, Page A3

Wednesday, 27 January 1988 Item No. 3

## Negotiators argue for INF treaty as Helms rebuffed

By Mary Belcher THE WASHINGTON TIMES

U.S. arms negotiators pushed the merits of the new U.S. Soviet nuclear weapons agreement to a receptive Senate Foreign Relations Committee yesterday, as senators from both parties turned against the treaty's most vocal opponent.

Testifying on the second day of hearings on the intermediate range nuclear forces treaty, negotiator Maynard Glitman said the removal of the missiles from Western Europe would soothe NATO fears. The Europeans are concerned that the United States might not come to their defense because the Soviet missiles now covered by the treaty could not reach American soil.

"Their [the INF missiles'] ability to intimidate, their potential for inciting fear of decoupling the United States from its allies, are what gave Soviet INF missiles their real force," he said.

His fellow negotiator Max Kampelman warned against conditioning INF ratification on progress in ongoing strategic arms reduction talks [START] or negotiations on the imbalance between NATO and Warsaw Pact conventional forces.

"The INF treaty stands on its own feet," Mr. Kampelman said. The philos-

ophy behind arms-control talks, he said, is "one step at a time."

In a parallel hearing before the Senate Armed Services Committee yesterday, former Defense Secretary James Schlesinger said the INF treaty should be ratified. But the United States must assure its NATO allies in Western Europe that it remains committed to providing a nuclear deterrence to Soviet attack, he said.

Sen. Jesse Helms of North Carolina, the ranking Republican on the Foreign Relations panel, continued to fault the treaty because it would allow the Soviet Union and United States to preserve the nuclear warheads of the medium-range missile systems scheduled for elimination.

"A missile is a carrying case and the warhead is the thing that goes 'boom' and kills you," Mr. Helms said. "A missile doesn't kill you unless it falls on your head and cracks it open."

But Mr. Kampelman and Mr. Glitman noted that warheads are impotent without a missile to deliver them to their targets and cause them to explode.

"They [the nuclear warheads] do not go boom by themselves," Mr. Kampelman said.

Mr. Glitman said the destruction of nuclear materials is not practical. "It is not

possible to simply take a sledgehammer and crush the front end [the warhead] of a missile, because no one wants to be around — it isn't healthy," he said.

Other Republicans on the Foreign Relations committee quickly distanced themselves from Mr. Helms' arguments.

Sen. Dan Evans, Washington Republican, said the warheads issue was not just a "red herring" but a "crimson whale."

"The illusions are all falling," Sen. Richard Lugar, Indiana Republican, told the treaty negotiators. "This is very hard for people who think in cartoons and symbols to grasp."

But Mr. Helms kept pounding the treaty from all angles, raising prospects of Soviet cheating and the possibility that the warheads removed from mediumrange missiles could simply be rebolted on longer-range missiles.

He also suggested that the Soviets could secretly continue to build mediumrange missiles because U.S. observers will only be allowed to inspect those sites the Soviets allow them to inspect.

"You cannot expect to go any time any place in the Soviet Union unless you're willing to let them do the same thing," Mr. Glitman said, adding that the United States "still has some secrets" that should not be shared.

Mr. Kampelman resisted suggestions by Sen. Joseph Biden, Delaware Democrat, that the United States and Soviet Union agree to limit the production of long-range strategic weapons until they come to a final agreement on weapons cuts in ongoing Strategic Arms Reduction Talks [START].

Mr. Kampelman said President Reagan has received no assurances from the Soviet Union that it would agree to such an interim freeze. He said seeking such an agreement could sidetrack START negotiations.

"Our feeling is that we have a good shot at getting a START treaty in the next few months, and we would rather put our energies into that highly complicated process," Mr. Kampelman said.

Mr. Helms is expected to propose socalled "killer" amendments to the arms pact that would force renegotiation with the Soviets. Mr. Biden's concerns are more likely to be expressed in legislation that would not force the superpowers back to the table.

Senate leaders predict that they will have the 67 votes needed to approve the treaty by mid-April. But they also are trying to keep it free of "killer" amendments, which would require approval by a simple majority of 51 senators.

